**De Yena**

1 Est animal qui dicitur yena, in sepulchris mortuorum

habitans, eorumque corpora vescens. Cuius natura est

ut aliquando masculus sit, aliquando femina, et ideo est

immundum animal. Cui cum spina riget, continuā

5 unitate flecti nequit nisi toto corporis circumactu. Solinus

multa mira de eā refert, primum quod sequitur stabula

pastorum, et circuit domos per noctem, et assiduo auditu

addiscit vocamen, quod exprimere possit imitationem

vocis humane, ut hominem astu accitum nocte seviat.

10 Vomitūs quoque humanos imitatur falsisque singultibus

sic sollicitatos canes devorat. Qui forte si venantes

umbram eiusdem dum sequitur contigerint, latrare

nequeunt voce perditā. Eadem yena inquisicione

corporum sepultorum busta eruit. Verum yena

15 quodcumque animal ter lustraverit movēre se non potest.

Quapropter magicam inesse ei pronunciaverunt.

**yena**: in Classical Latin (CL): **hyena**

**vescor, -ēre,** to feed on

**masculus, -a, -um,** male

**immundus, -a, -um**, unclean

**rigō, (1)**, to be stiff; **continua unitate**: ablative of quality

**nequeō**, **īre, īvī, ītus**, to be unable

**circumactus, -ūs, m.**, bringing around, turning

**stabulum, ī, n.**, stable

**addiscō, -ere, adidicī,** to learn; **vocamen, vocaminis, f.**, name, voice; **quod**: what kind of clause does this introduce?

**astus, -ūs, m.,** cunning

**acciō (4)**, summon, here more like “lure”

**seviō (4)** = CL *saevio****,*** to rage (at), act savagely (toward)

**vomitus, -ūs, m.**, vomiting

**singultus, -ūs, m.**, cough

**contingō, -ere, contigi, contactum**, to touch

**latrō, -āre**, bark

**inquisicione**: CL **inquisitione**; inquisitio, -ōnis, f., seeking

**bustum, -ī, n.**, tomb; **eruō, -ere**, tear up

**lustrō, -āre**, to circle around

**quāpropter**: wherefore

**pronunciāvērunt**: What would this form be in CL?

**De fenice**

1 Fenix Arabie avis dicta quod colorem feniceum habeat,

vel quod sit in toto orbe singularis et unica. Hec

quingentos ultrā annos vivens, dum se viderit senuisse,

collectīs aromatum virgultīs, rogum sibi instruit, et

5 conversa ad radium solis alarum plausu voluntarium sibi

incendium nutrit, seque urit. postea vero die nonā avis de

cineribus suis surgit. Avis in locis Arabie perhibetur

degere, atque eam usque ad annos quingentos longevā

10 etate procedere. Que cum sibi finem vite esse

adverterit, facit sibi thecam de thure et mirra et

ceteris odoribus in quam impleto vite sue tempore

intrat et moritur. De cuius humore carnis exurgit

15 vermis paulatimque adolescit, ac processu statuti

temporis, induit alarum remigia, atque in superioris avis

speciem formamque reparatur.

**Fenix**: Classical Latin (CL) **Phoenix**; **Arabie**: CL **Arabiae**

**feniceum:** CL **phoeniceus, -a, -um**, reddish-purple

**habēat**: in Medieval Latin (ML), often the subjunctive will follow a causal **quod**

**hec**: CL **haec**

**senescō, -ere, -senuī**, to grow old

**arōma, -atis, f.**, herb; **virgultus, -ī, m.**, stem, twig

**rogus, -ī, m.,** funeral pyre

**alārum plausū**: “the beating of its wings;” **voluntarium** technically agrees with **incendium**; take it adverbially here: “voluntarily”

**nūtriō, -ere**, to feed

**cinis, cineris, m.**, ashes;  **perhibeō, -ēre**, to say, assert

**dēgō, dēgere**, to live, spend one’s life

**longevā**: CL **longaevā**: longaevus, -a, -um, long (of life)

**etāte**: what would this form be in CL?

**theca, -ae, f.**, container; **thus, thuris, m.**, frankincense

**mirra, -ae, f.**, myrrh

**impletus, -a, -um**, filled, completed. What case are **vite** and **sue**?

**humor, -oris, m.**, liquid; **exurgit** = CL *exsurgit*

**vermis, -is, m.**, worm; **adolescit**: what is an “adolescent”?

**statutus, -a, -um**, appointed

**alarum remigia**: “the oarage of wings,” a set of wings

**superior, -ius**, previous

**reparō (1)**, regain

**De ydro**

1 Est animal in Nilu flumine quod dicitur idrus in aquā

vivens. Greci enim “idros” aquam vocant. Hic idrus satis

est inimicus cocodrillo, et hanc habet naturam et

consuetudinem, ut cum viderit cocodrillum dormientem in

5 littore, vadit aperto ore et involuit se in luto quo facilius

possit in faucibus eius illabi. Cocodrillus igitur subito

vivum eum transglutit. Ille vero dilanians omnia viscera

eius non solum unus, sed etiam exit illesus. Sic ergo

mors et infernus figuram habent cocodrilli, quorum

10 inimicus est dominus Jesus Christus. Nam assumens

humanam carnem descendit ad infernum, et dirumpens

omnia viscera eius eduxit eos qui iniuste tenebantur ab

eo.

**idrus**: in Classical Latin (CL): **hydrus, -ī, m.**

**Grecī**: CL: **Graecī**; “hydros” is Greek for “water”

**satis**: here “very much”

**cocodrillus, -ī, m.,** crocodile

**littore**: CL **lītore; lutum, -ī, n.,** mud

**fauces, -ium**, jaws; **illabor, illabī, illapsus sum**, to slip in

**transglūtiō, -ere**, to gulp down; **dīlaniō, -āre**, to tear up

**viscera**: just what it looks like in English

**ūnus**: here, “in one piece;” **illesus**: CL **illaesus, -a, -um,** unharmed

**figuram**: here, “symbol”

**assumo, -ere, -sumpsi, sumptus**, take on, put on

**dirumpo, -ere, -rūpī, ruptus**, break through

**De basilisco**

1 Basiliscus Grece Latine interpretatur “regulus,” eo quod sit rex serpentium adeo ut eum videntes fugiant, quia

olfactu suo eos necat. Nam et hominem si vel aspiciat

interimit. Siquidem ab eius aspectu nulla avis volans

5 illesa transit, sed quamvis sit procul, eius ore combustā

devoratur. ā mustelis tamen vincitur quas illic homines

inferunt cavernis in quibus delitescunt. Itaque eā visā

fugit, quem illa persequitur et occidit. Nihil enim parens

ille rerum sine remedio constituit. Est autem longitudine

10 semipedalis albis maculis lineatus.

**Grecē**: in Classical Latin (CL), **Graecē**, “in Greek”

**basiliscus:** *Basileus* is the Greek word for *rex*, king

**regulus, -ī, m.**, a little king, prince

**eō quod**: “because,” often followed by subjunctive in Medieval Latin;

**olfactus, -ūs, m.,** smell; **vel**, “even”

**interimō, -ere**, to kill; **sīquidem**, “since indeed”

**ab eius aspectū**: take with **illesa**; **aspectus, -ūs, m.,** sight

**illesa**: CL **illaesus, -a, -um,** unharmed

**combūrō, -ere, -ussī, -ustus**, to burn up

**mustela, -ae, f.,** weasel

**dēlitescō, -ere**, to hide; **eā**: refers to the **mustela,** as does **illa** in the next line

**pārens…rērum**: “father of the world”

**constituit**: “set up”

**sēmipedālis**, -e, half a foot; **macula, -ae, f.,** spot

**lineātus, -a, -um**, striped

Where did this legend come from? You may want to research the habits of the **mongoose**.

Bartholomeus Anglicus

# De Rerum Proprietatibus

Book 18.

### De Gryphe

1 Gryphes est animal pennatum et quadrupes in

hyperboreis partibus sive montibus nascens, omni parte

corporis sunt leones, alis tantum et capite aquilis

assimilantur. Equis vehementer sunt infesti, et vivos

5 homines discerpunt. Adeo autem infestat equum, quod

equitem armatum cum eo rapiat in sublime. Custodiunt

autem gryphes montes, in quibus sunt gemmae

preciosae, ut smaragdi et iaspides, nec permittunt eas

10 auferri exinde. Partes quaedam in Scythiā auro et

gemmis affluunt, sed gryphorum immanitate accessus

hominum est rarus. Tam magnos habent ungues et tam

amplos, quod inde fiunt scyphi, qui mensis Regum

apponuntur.

**pennatus, -a, -um,** feathered; **quadrupes**: having *quattuor**pedes*

**hyperboreus, -a, -um,** northern

**ala, -ae, f.**, wing

**assimilantur**: they are *similes*; **infestus, -a, -um**, hateful (towards), enemies (of)

**discerpō, -ere, -psī, -ptus**, pluck up, snatch up

**infestō, (1)**, hate; what kind of clause does **quod** introduce?

**eques, equitis, m.**, knight; **sublime?**

**smaragdus, -ī, m.,** emerald; **iaspis, iaspidis, m.**, jasper

**exinde**: from there

**affluō, -ere, -uī, -?** : abound, have an abundance of

**immanitas, -tātis, f.**, savageness, here the ablative shows cause; **accessus**: as it looks in English

**unguis, unguis, ?.**, claw, hoof, fingernail

**scyphus, -ī, m.**, cup

**De bonnacon**.

1 In Asia animal nascitur quod bonnacon dicunt. Cui

taurinum caput, ac deinceps corpus omne tantum iubā

equinā. Cornua autem ita multiplici flexu in se

recurrentia, ut, si quis in eo offendat, non vulneretur, sed

5 quicquid presidii monstro illi frons negat, alvus sufficit.

Nam cum in fugam vertit proluvie citi ventris fumum

egerit per longitudinem trium iugerum, cuius ardor

quicquid attigerit adurit. Ita egerie noxiā submovet

10 insequentes.

**cui**: suppy *est*. You’ll have to supply more of these throughout the passage

**taurinum**: like a *taurus*; **deinceps**: from that point onwards

**iuba, -ae, f.**, crest, mane

**multiplici flexu**: in a folded bending; **recurrentia:** turning back

**quis**= *aliquis*; **offendō, ere, -sī, -sus (in)**:run up (against), hit (against)

**presidii**: CL praesidium, -ī, n., protection, partitive genitive with **quicquid**, trans. “whatever protection”;

**alvus, -ī, m.**, belly

**proluviēs, -ēī, f.,** discharge, excrement; **cītus, -a, -um**, quick

**citī**: a transferred epithet: what does it have to agree with? What does it make more sense with?

**venter, ventris, m.**, stomach; **fūmus, -ī, m.**, here, fume, vapor; **ēgerō, -ere, -gessī, -gestus**, discharge, let out

**iugerum, -ī, n.,** a *jugerum,* about 2/3 of an acre

**adurō, -ere, -ussī, -ussus**, scorch, burn

**egeries, -ei, f.,** discharge; **submoveō, -ēre, -ī, -tus**, deter